

Message Text

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TAGS: OEXC (WILLIAMS, HARVEY), NU

SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF LATF GRANT TO HARVEY WILLIAMS

REF A) STATE 138535; B) MANAGUA 2147; C) STATE 016483 JAN 1973

1. RE REF. B PARA 1: WILLIAMS ARRIVED MANAGUA JANUARY, 1973 IN IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH DECEMBER 1972 EARTHQUAKE. UNTIL JUNE 1973, WILLIAMS WORKED WITH NICARAGUAN MINISTRY OF ECONOMY ON DECENTRALIZATION PLAN FOR NEW MANAGUA WHILE AWAITING REOPENING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (UCA) CAMPUS. WILLIAMS' SOCIOLOGY PROJECT AT UCA BEGAN JUNE 1973. PROGRAM THUS IS JUST ENTERING THIRD YEAR. WILLIAMS HAS BUILT DEPARTMENT UP TO THREE FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS AND 4 PART-TIME FACULTY SHARED WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS. AVERAGE OF 25 STUDENTS PER ACADEMIC YEAR HAVE ENTERED PROGRAM SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1973, WITH VERY LOW ATTRITION RATE. WILLIAMS NOW WORKING WITH THREE DIFFERENT GROUPS OF STUDENTS, I.E., THOSE WHO BEGAN STUDIES IN 1973, 1974 AND THIS YEAR. OTHER STUDENTS FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS ALSO TAKE CLASSES FROM SOCIOLOGY STAFF. UNIVERSITY WISHES WILLIAMS REMAIN TO GUIDE PROGRAM THROUGH THIS ACADEMIC YEAR, I.E., UNTIL THOSE STUDENTS WHO BEGAN PROGRAM IN 1973 ARE IN THEIR LAST YEAR (THESIS PREPARATION YEAR), OF STUDY. CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR HAS JUST BEGUN, AND WILL END IN JUNE 1976, INCLUDING SUMMER SESSION.

2. RE REF. B PARA 2: WILLIAMS' ORIGINAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION INCLUDED TASKS OF ESTABLISHING SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT AT UCA AND WORKING AND COOPERATING IN ANY OTHER WAY WHICH WOULD ENHANCE INTERCHANGE BETWEEN NICARAGUA AND U.S. ALMOST FROM BEGINNING OF HIS WORK AT UCA IN JUNE 1973, WILLIAMS BECAME

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INVOLVED IN PLANNING NICARAGUAN CENTER FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

(CICNIC), THE MAJOR SPONSOR OF WHICH IS DR. JAIME INCER, DEAN OF SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES OF UCA AND BROTHER OF NICARAGUAN CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT ROBERTO INCER. CICNIC HAS NOW BEEN APPROVED FOR FUNDING BY CENTRAL BANK AND SHOULD BEGIN OPERATIONS BEFORE DECEMBER 1975. SINCE WILLIAMS HAS BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN PLANNING CICNIC, POST BELIEVES HE SHOULD STAY IN NICARAGUA UNTIL PROJECT COMPLETED. CICNIC WILL PROVIDE WORK AND OFFICE SPACE, SECRETARIAL HELP, GUIDANCE AND COOPERATION FOR AMERICAN AND NICARAGUAN RESEARCHERS IN THE SOCIAL, PHYSICAL AND NATURAL SCIENCES. PRIME PURPOSE OF CICNIC IS TO INCREASE RESEARCH COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND NICARAGUA. AS STATED IN MANAGUA 2147, CICNIC HAS ALREADY BEGUN PAVE WAY FOR SMOOTHER, MORE COORDINATED RESEARCH BY ANSWERING SEVERAL QUERIES FROM US SCHOLARS INTERESTED IN DOING RESEARCH IN NICARAGUA.

3. RE REF. B PARA 3: STUDENT COUNSELING OPERATION WAS MENTIONED ONLY AS EXAMPLE OF AMPLITUDE OF WILLIAMS' INTERESTS APART FROM UCA PROJECT. SINCE ARRIVING MANAGUA, WILLIAMS HAS PARTICIPATED IN NUMEROUS SOCIAL RESEARCH PROJECTS WHICH HAVE REFLECTED POSITIVELY ON BOTH HIMSELF AND AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN NICARAGUA. WILLIAMS WORKED THROUGHOUT 1973 AND 1974 ASSISTING NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCHER ON EFFECTS OF EARTHQUAKE ON MANAGUA RESIDENTS. ALSO ASSISTED IN FIRST NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE UTILIZATION STUDY SPONSORED BY CABINET-LEVEL NATIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE. SINCE JANUARY 1975, WILLIAMS HAS BEEN HEAD ADVISOR TO INTER-AGENCY GROUP COMPLETING FIRST NATIONAL STUDY OF DRUG ABUSE IN NICARAGUA. NONE OF THESE PROJECTS HAVE DISTRACTED WILLIAMS FROM HIS PRIME INTEREST OF ESTABLISHING SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT AT UCA. ON CONTRARY, OUTSIDE PROJECTS HAVE BROADENED HIS RANGE OF CONTACTS AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND HAVE PROVIDED FIELD RESEARCH PROJECTS FOR HIS STUDENTS AND NICARAGUAN COLLEAGUES.

4. SUMMARY COMMENT: POST FEELS WILLIAMS' WORK HAS BEEN OF VERY HIGH CALIBER AND IN BEST POSSIBLE TRADITION FOR EXCHANGE PROFESSOR. WILLIAMS HAS CONSISTENTLY WORKED TO BETTER INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING BY: (1) PREPARING A SOLID CADRE OF WELL-TRAINED NICARAGUAN SOCIAL SCIENTISTS CAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING MODERN US SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND APPLYING THEM TO THEIR LOCAL SITUATION, (2) WORKING TO APPLY HIS OWN PERSONAL EXPERTISE TO PROBLEMS OF SOCIAL RESEARCH IN NICARAGUA AND, (3) WORKING TO UNCLASSIFIED

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CREATE AN INSTITUTION WHICH WILL ASSIST ON A REGULAR BASIS ACADEMIC EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE US AND NICARAGUA. POST FEELS THIS IS COMPLETELY WITHIN PRECEPTS OF CU PROGRAM AND THAT WILLIAMS SHOULD IF AT ALL POSSIBLE STAY IN NICARAGUA THROUGH ACADEMIC YEAR 1975-76, ENDING JUNE 1976.

5. NOTE: ALTHOUGH WILLIAMS ARRIVED IN JANUARY 1973, OUR RECORDS SHOW POST CU ALLOCATION WAS CHARGE \$9,500.00 FOR ONE

LATF GRANTEE FROM BEGINNING OF FY-73. PERHAPS THIS DISCREPANCY
PROVIDED CU WITH ERRONEOUS ORIGINAL ARRIVAL DATE FOR WILLIAMS IN
MANAGUA OF JULY 1972. WE REPEAT, WILLIAMS ARRIVED MANAGUA
JANUARY 15, 1973, AND WAS ONLY ABLE FINALLY BEGIN WORK AT UCA IN
JUNE 1973.
SHELTON

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